

State Bicycle Map Update Steering Committee Meeting December 15, 2006

The Second Steering Committee Meeting for the State Regional Bicycle Map updates was held at the NHDOT on December 15, 2006.

Members present:

Tom Jameson – NHDOT Rail & Transit, Bicycle & Pedestrian Section
Jerry Moore – NHDOT Rail & Transit, Bicycle & Pedestrian Section
Scott Bogle – Rockingham Planning Commission
Dave Topham - Bike-Walk Alliance of NH
Craig Tufts – Central NH Regional Planning Commission
Nathan Miller - Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee RPC
Matthew Caron – Southern NH Planning Commission
Mary Deppe – North Country Council
Matt Waitkins – Nashua Regional Planning Commission
Greg Bakos – VHB/BWA-NH
Linda Harvey – Granite State Wheelmen
Jim Marshall – NHDOT Highway Design
David Bernier – NHDOT Bureau of Traffic
Lelia Mellen – National Park Service
Jennifer Codispoti – DRED, Trails Bureau

Members not present:

Nicolas Bosonetto – Southwest Regional Planning Commission
Dale Abbott - Strafford RPC
Seacoast Area Bicycle Routes (SABR)
DRED – Travel & Tourism
Mike Izard – Lakes Region Planning Commission

Before the introductions, Tom Jameson gave an update on the status of the Montreal-Boston bicycle race and mentioned that New Hampshire would host two stages of the nine stage race in August of 2007.

After introductions, the meeting began with a review of the Bicycle Map revisions to date by Tom Jameson and Jerry Moore of the DOT, and followed by updates on changes that may be necessary by the Regional Planning Commissions. There was also feedback on changes from Linda Harvey of Granite State Wheelmen and Dave Topham representing the Bike/Walk Alliance of New Hampshire.

As a result of the presentations the following additions, modifications and issues were discussed:

1. Mary Deppe, NCC, via speaker phone, suggested that we develop a link to The Scenic and Cultural Byways site and include additional information relative to lane width and shoulder width.
2. Nat Miller, UVLSRPC, noted that our bicycle routes sometimes bypass some of the more picturest and desirable bicycle locations, Ackworth Center was an example and also does not accurately show Park-n-Ride locations or include the Northern Rail Trail. www.northernrailtrail.org
3. Matt Waitkins, NashuaPC, suggested the use of yellow caution areas using an “average bicycle rider” as a guideline.
4. Scott Bogle, RockinghamPC, mentioned that bike routes do not end at our borders, referencing those that bicycle into Maine over Portsmouth bridges. He made a recommendation that we follow up on a suggestion from our first meeting to add a scenic “Bicycle Loop” to each of the seven regional maps and that it be internet based. The “Rockingham Recreational Trail” and “American Independence Byway” needs to be added to the maps.
5. Linda Harvey, Granite State Wheelmen, “We have always had an issue with road shoulders and traffic. Wide shoulders only seem to exist on our busy routes”. Is there a way to develop bike routes that are on quiet streets or back roads? Can we develop bicycle tour routes and put “Not Recommended on some”?
6. Tom Jameson, NHDOT - We are working on developing a “Caution” color code. The words: “Not Recommended” has liability issues, so we need to choose our wording cautiously.
7. Dave Topham, BWA-NH – We can identify our routes by condition. Examples are “Heavy Truck”, “Light Traffic”, “Quiet” or “Scenic”.
8. Tom Jameson – We will need to have the RPC’s help in developing the routes by “Condition”.
9. Linda Harvey – Color code “Heavy Truck” in orange. Example route 3a, Manchester to Concord. Oregon uses color coding, and would be a good source for examples. Add Scenic Byways as “Scenic Bicycle Routes”
10. Jennifer Codispoti, DRED-Trails – Color code routes based upon parameters such as shoulder width, lane width, surface type, etc.
11. Matt Waitkins - We do not need the elevation legend. Visual is all that is necessary. Elevation colors should take into account color blindness.

12. Scott Bogle – Photo copying of maps may require them to be lighter than the examples. Coping tends to darken and the current examples may not copy well.
13. Nat Miller, UVLSRPC – Show only the Park-n-Ride symbols, not the table. Have table on the electronic version only.
14. Dave Topham – Use caution on “Changeable” items on the map like Bicycle Shops, B&B’s. Here today, and gone tomorrow.
15. Dave Topham - Use for route profiles.
16. Lilia Mellen, National Park Service – The maps should highlight “Scenic Byways”.
17. Dave Bernier, NHDOT Traffic - We are working into our schedules the widening of our road shoulders.
18. Tom Jameson – We will be adding the route segment distance as we did on our original Regional Maps.
19. Linda Harvey – In the southern part of the state, i.e. Salem, Windham, the roads are not bicycle friendly. Should we be including the incomplete rail trails as possible future options?
20. Dave Topham – Only one out of three maps can be displayed on line in our map update tab on www.nhbikeped.com.
21. Tom Jameson – We can provide 100 ea. interim 11x17 maps to each RPC before the scheduled Town Meetings.
22. Jennifer Copispoti – We need to build a survey with comment section to go along with the maps.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, November 17th, with a follow up meeting on December 15th after the completion of the RPC evaluation of the “Preferred Bicycle Routes”.

The meeting adjourned around 11:00 am.

Submitted by: Jerry Moore